

# HEALTH FACILITY CONSTRUCTION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **ELECTRICAL**

### **1. When did the 2004 California Electrical Code become effective?**

The 2004 California Electrical Code became effective August 1, 2005. Please refer to Code Application Notice (CAN) 1:

[www.oshpd.ca.gov/FDD/Regulations/CANS/Can-1.pdf](http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/FDD/Regulations/CANS/Can-1.pdf)

### **2. When is fire-resistant construction required for an electrical room or a transformer room?**

The 2004 California Electrical Code, Article 450.21(B), states that individual dry-type transformers over 112½ kVA installed indoors must be installed in a transformer room of fire-resistant construction. Unless otherwise specified in this article, the term fire-resistant means construction having a minimum fire rating of one hour. Please refer to Article 450.21 (B) for exceptions.

### **3. Are electrical rooms considered storage rooms under Items 10 and 11 in Table 3-C of the 2001 California Building Code?**

Electrical rooms are not storage rooms; therefore, they are not required to meet the “storage room” requirements of Table 3-C, 2001 California Building Code.

### **4. Is fire alarm wiring required to be installed in conduit?**

In general, the fire alarm wiring must be installed in conduit; however there are some exceptions described in Articles 760.30 and 760.52, 2004 California Electrical Code.

### **5. Are wireless nurse call systems allowed in health care facilities?**

Wireless nurse call systems do not comply with the 2004 California Electrical Code (CEC); however, the 2007 CEC allows the installation of wireless nurse call systems in skilled nursing facilities. The system must comply with ANSI/UL 1069, Standard for Hospital Signaling and Nurse Call Equipment. It is anticipated that the 2007 CEC will become effective in January 2008. Until the 2007 CEC becomes effective, OSHPD will allow compliance with the 2007 CEC requirements for wireless nurse call systems as an Alternate Method of Compliance. In addition, all nurse call systems must comply with Article 517.123, 2004 CEC. Please refer to OSHPD’s final express terms for Part 3, 2007 CEC at: [www.oshpd.ca.gov/FDD/Regulations/CodeInfo.htm](http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/FDD/Regulations/CodeInfo.htm)